

Observations of Swift's Comet (a 1892) and Winnecke's Periodic Comet, made at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich.

(Communicated by the Astronomer Royal.)

The observations were made with the East, or Sheepshanks, equatoreal, aperture 6·7 inches, by taking transits over two cross wires at right angles to each other, and each inclined 45° to the parallel of declination. Magnifying power, 55.

The observations are corrected for refraction, but not for parallax.

Swift's Comet (a 1892).

Greenwich Mean Solar Time.			Observer.		*R.A.		Corr. for Refraction.		Log factor of Parallax.		*N.P.D.		Corr. for Refraction.		Log factor of Parallax.		No. of Comps.		Appt. R.A.		Appt. N.P.D.		Comp. Star.	
1892.	d	h	m	s		m	s	s			'	"	'	"					h	m	s	'	"	a
June	9	14	14	41	B.	+3	33·05	0·00	9·6573		-10	59·1	-0·1		0·5989		2		0	11	27·13	49	22	50·5
	9	14	14	41	"	+2	32·50	0·00	9·6573		-11	23·1	-0·1		0·5989		2		0	11	27·28	49	22	54·1
	27	11	2	23	A.C.	+0	12·60	0·00	9·6998		+0	38·8	0·0		0·7817		3		0	41	4·54	44	14	19·8
	30	10	30	51	"	-0	2·50	-0·04	9·6888		-20	14·1	-1·1		0·8045		4		...	...	...	...	...	d
	30	10	33	6	"	-1	55·00	0·00	9·6907		+2	17·9	+0·2		0·8020		3		...	...	...	...	...	e

Winnecke's Comet.

1892.	d	h	m	s		m	s	s			'	"	'	"					h	m	s	'	"	f
June	27	10	35	7	A.C.	-0	21·73	-0·13	9·5979		+11	48·9	+1·9		0·8544		2		9	6	22·72	54	38	42·7

Comparison Stars.

Star's Name.	Mean R.A., 1892 ^o .			Mean N.P.D., 1892 ^o .			Authority.
	h	m	s	°	'	"	
<i>a</i> 23 Andromedæ	0	7	54.18	49	33	39.7	Greenwich Observations, 1888 and 1889.
<i>b</i> Piazzi O., 13	0	8	54.88	49	34	7.3	Greenwich Observations, 1887 and 1888.
<i>c</i> O.A. (N.) 728	0	40	51.62	44	13	33.3	Second Armagh Catalogue, 1875, and Paris Catalogue, 1882.
<i>d</i> B.D. + 45°, 215	0	44	56.5	43	52		Bonn Observations, vol. v.
<i>e</i> B.D. + 46°, 189	0	46	51.8	43	28		" "
<i>f</i> W.B. (2) IX., 70, 71, 72	9	6	44.67	54	27	0.7	Weisse's Bessel, vol. ii.

Notes.

Star *f* is a close triple star, the components being nearly equal. The mean of their places has been used, as the triplicity was not noticed with the low power employed. Winnecke's comet was very bright on June 27, and was readily visible in spite of the bright twilight.

The following meridian observations of Swift's comet were made with the Transit Circle :—

Greenwich Mean Solar Time.			Observer.	R.A.	N.P.D. (Corrected for Refraction and Parallax.)		
1892.	d	h	m	s	h	m	s
Aug.	30	14	4	47	A.C.	0	43 39.37
Sept.	3	13	44	11	"	0	38 45.83
						37	32 12.73

In computing the parallax $\log \Delta$ was taken as 0.2676 on August 30, 0.2700 on September 3, these values being interpolated from Archenhold's Ephemeris.

The initials A.C. and B. are those of Mr. Crommelin and Mr. Bryant respectively.

*Sextant Observations of Swift's Comet made on board the Ship
"Eaton Hall." By Capt. G. M. Lourison.*

(Communicated by the Secretaries.)

1892 April 6, position at noon, lat. $17^{\circ} 30' \text{ S.}$, long. $27^{\circ} 53' \text{ W.}$
4 A.M., moderate E. to E. by N. breezes and clear sky. 5 A.M.,
altitude of comet $42^{\circ} 40' 47''$; G.M.T., $19^{\text{h}} 1^{\text{m}} 24^{\text{s}}$. Distance from
Vega, $53^{\circ} 8' 0''$; *Mars*, $34^{\circ} 52' 0''$; *α Centauri*, $91^{\circ} 18' 0''$. Noon,
brisk E. to E. by N. winds and clear sky. At 5 A.M., while
observing the comet, a brilliant meteor shot from under it,
illuminating the whole sky, and leaving a train of light which
lasted a full minute and a half. The tail of the meteor was
spiral as it fell.